

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 112195

FOLLOWING REPEAT SAN JOSE 1973 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
MEXICO 23 MAY

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 1973

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: EAST GERMAN GOVERNMENT REQUEST COSTA RICAN
FACILITIES FOR FISHING VESSELS

1. MINISTER FACIO ASKED THE CHARGE MAY 22 FOR U.S. COMMENTS ON A FORMAL REQUEST SUBMITTED TO THE GOCR BY THE EAST GERMAN GOVERNMENT FOR USE OF FACILITIES TO EXCHANGE FISHING CREWS AND REPROVISION VESSELS AT THE PACIFIC COAST PORT OF PUNTARENAS. EAST GERMAN NOTE WAS SENT BY THAT GOVERNMENT'S EMBASSY IN MEXICO CITY TO COSTA RICAN EMBASSY IN MEXICO. NOTE EXPLAINS THAT EAST GERMANS HAVE FIVE BOATS BELONGING TO THE STATE FISHING ENTERPRISE "HOCHSEEFISCHEREI" FISHING IN THE PACIFIC BETWEEN 40 AND 48 DEGREES NORTH FROM APRIL TO OCTOBER AND THEY PRIMARILY NEED A CONVENIENT PORT TO EXCHANGE CREWS AND ALSO TO TAKE ON FOODSTOCKS AND FUEL. THE EAST GERMANS INTEND TO FLY IN 400 CREWMEN AT THE END OF JUNE OR IN EARLY JULY ABOARD THE EAST GERMAN AIRLINE "INTERFLUG" THEN
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TRANSPORT THE CREWS OVERLAND TO THE PORT OF PUNTARENAS.

THE SAME MEANS WILL BE USED TO TAKE OUT THE REPLACED CREWS.

2. DOES THE DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY THOUGHTS ON THE EAST GERMAN PROPOSAL THAT THE EMBASSY CAN CONFIDENTIALLY PASS ON TO THE MINISTER? FACIO IS CONCERNED THAT THE VESSELS MIGHT BE INVOLVED IN INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES AND HAS DELIBERATELY HELD UP ON GIVING HIS ANSWER UNTIL HE HEARS FROM US.
LANE UNQUOTE BROWN

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